

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 2, 2005

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 2, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Aubry L. Wallace, Chaplain, Chilton County Sheriff's Department, Clanton, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I pray Your protection for this assembled body. May the brightness of Your countenance shine upon them. Keep them in Your hand and give them the assurance of Your walk with them as they go about the business of deliberating the affairs of our beloved country.

May they find in You the strength to withstand those who criticize. Give them the humility to accept aid when offered and the courage to do the right thing.

Holy Father, make them aware of Your presence as they take part in this divinely appointed experiment we call human government. Then at the end of the day let them know, all that is required of you is to love mercy, do justly, to walk only with their God, and in his Holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 167. An act to provide for the protection of intellectual property rights, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 93-618, as amended by Public Law 100-418, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, appoints the following Members of the Committee on Finance as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations:

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY),

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH),

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT),

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), and

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN WALLACE

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, our prayer today was offered by Pastor Aubry Wallace. Pastor Wallace is joined by his wife, Shirley. They just celebrated their 51st anniversary. Pastor Wallace and Shirley are the parents of four children. Three of them are serving our country and have served our country.

Their son was in the Navy and was deceased while serving. They have another son, who is a Marine, and another that has served in the Air Force.

He has pastored three churches in Chilton County, where he is beloved. He also serves as a chaplain for the Chilton County Sheriff's Department, and one of the things I am most proud of him is for his ministry to prisoners there in the Chilton County Jail. He has and is making a difference. He is over a 20-year veteran of the Air Force, where he served in Vietnam for 7 years.

So we are very proud of him this morning and thank him very much.

SUPPORT FOR ALBERTO GONZALES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Judge Alberto Gonzales is a true American success story, an embodiment of the American dream. He deserves to be confirmed as Attorney General. He was born in Humble, Texas, to immigrant parents and grew up with seven siblings in a two-bedroom house where his mother still lives.

He was the first member of his family to go to college. He graduated from Rice University and received his law degree from Harvard University. His career includes judge of the Texas Supreme Court, Texas Secretary of State, counsel to then Governor Bush and counsel to the President of the United States.

I am truly inspired by Judge Gonzales and his outstanding contributions to our Nation. He is a highly qualified nominee who is a true American success story and a source of pride for Hispanics across the country.

I urge my colleagues across the Chamber to do what is best for America and confirm Judge Gonzales.

MISSING \$9 BILLION IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the state of the Union is asleep. This administration cannot account for \$9 billion it controlled in Iraq for a 9-month period ending last October. Wake up, America.

While \$9 billion went unaccounted for, the administration did not have enough money for bullet-proof vests or armor-plated protection for troops. It fought against increasing the combat death benefit and cut veterans benefits. Yet, for 9 months, an average of \$30 million a day, totaling \$9 billion, could not be accounted for by the administration's Coalition Provisional Authority, according to the Inspector General. Do we hear a grand jury stirring?

Was the \$9 billion stolen? Was it used for bribes for peace or rent-a-friend or a paid assassin program? Was it funneled elsewhere to spend money to foment chaos, disorder and violence?

The administration could not find WMDs, Osama bin Laden, and now \$9 billion is unaccounted for. They want

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.